

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02635 281151Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W

-----113043 282112Z /65

R 280913Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7788

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CE

SUBJ: EX-INSURGENTS FAIL AT POLLS

REF: COLOMBO 2493

1. IN THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT TO PROVE THEIR POPULAR ELECTORAL APPEAL, VETERANS OF THE 1971 YOUTH INSURGENCY FAILED MISERABLY AT LAST WEEK'S ELECTIONS. ONE EX-INSURGENT, S.D. BANDARANAYAKE, WON ON THE SLFP TICKET BUT HE IS AN ANOMALY, A VETERAN POLITICIAN WHO WAS AN SLFP M.P. FROM 1952-70, BUT LOST IN 1970 WHEN HE SWITCHED TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY/PEKING WING. OF THE NINE YOUNG CANDIDATES WE IDENTIFIED WITH INSURGENT CONNECTIONS, SIX RECEIVED LESS THAN A THOUSAND VOTES AND ALL BUT ONE LOST HIS ELECTION DEPOSIT. THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WAS G.I.D. (CASTRO) DHARMASEKERA WHO CAME A DISTANT THIRD (WITH FOURTEEN PERCENT OF THE VOTE) IN THE TWO-MEMBER ELECTORATE OF BERUWELA AS THE CANDIDATE OF THE UNITED LEFT FRONT (ULF). ANOTHER ULF CANDIDATE, MAHINDA WIJESEKERA, RECEIVED ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN DEVINUWARA. NONE OF THE OTHERS, THREE WITH ULF SUPPORT AND FOUR RUNNING UNDER THE BANNER OF THE JANATHA VIMUKTI PERAMNUNA (JVP), RECEIVED MORE THAN THREE PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN THEIR ELECTORATES. HOWEVER, THE JVP'S MOST PROMINENT MEMBER, LEADER ROHANA WIJEWEERA, AND SEVERAL OF HIS DEPUTIES WERE IN JAIL AND DID NOT CONTEST.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 COLOMB 02635 281151Z

2. THE FAILURE OF THE INSURGENTS WAS RELATED TO TWO MAJOR ELECTORAL TRENDS. ONE WAS THE SUCCESS OF THE UNP IN WINNING THE FIRST-TIME YOUTH VOTE. THE OTHER WAS THE GROWING DISINTEREST IN SRI LANKA IN CASTING ONE'S VOTE FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES (AS MEMBERS OF NON-RECOGNIZED PARTIES, ALL INSURGENT CANDIDATES THIS YEAR -- EXCEPT BANDARANAYAKE -- WERE TECH-

NICALLY INDEPENDENTS). ONE MINOR FACTOR IN THE UNP'S APPARENT SUCCESS IN WINNING SOME INSURGENT VOTES MAY HAVE BEEN J.R.'S PROMISES TO ABOLISH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION, BY WHICH INSURGENTS WERE TRIED, AND TO RECONSIDER THE SENTENCES IMPOSED ON WIJEWEERA AND OTHERS.

3. THE INSURGENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SPLIT BY IDEOLOGICAL AND PERSONAL DIFFERENCES. THIS ELECTION WAS NO EXCEPTION. DHARMASEKERA AND WIJESEKERA, BY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO LINK UP WITH ESTABLISHED LEFT PARTIES WHO ARE ANATHEMA TO OTHER INSURGENTS, DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY SAW SOME FUTURE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. THE JVP'ERS QUOTE LENIN TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY SHOULD UTILIZE THE BOURGEOIS PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM IN ORDER TO DISCREDIT IT. THEY HAD ALSO HOPED TO USE THE CAMPAIGN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE FUNDS, OPENLY PROPAGANDIZE, SEEK NEW RECRUITS, AND AGITATE FOR THE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF THEIR LEADERS.
PERKINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, YOUTH, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COLOMB02635
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770271-0230
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770710/aaaaaims.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 86f68662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COLOMBO 2493
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1721965
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EX-INSURGENTS FAIL AT POLLS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86f68662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009